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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Monday, March 3, 2008, at 2 p.m.

Senate

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 29, 2008

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER IV, a Senator from the State of West Virginia.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

O God of eternity, You are the first and the last, the beginning and the end, the alpha and the omega. You have given this great land spacious skies, strong leaders, and wonderful freedoms. Help us to be guardians of Your bounty, and use us as instruments of Your providence.

Lead our lawmakers. Help them to surrender to Your wisdom and power. May they be faithful stewards of the abilities You have given them. Lord, carry their heavy burdens and deepen their joy as servants of Your purposes. Give them a glimpse of Your view of their lives.

We ask in the Redeemer's Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER IV led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication

to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, February 29, 2008.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER IV, a Senator from the State of West Virginia, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mr. ROCKEFELLER thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

NEW DIRECTION FOR ENERGY INDEPENDENCE, NATIONAL SECURITY, AND CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT AND THE RENEWABLE ENERGY AND ENERGY CONSERVATION TAX ACT OF 2007—MOTION TO PROCEED

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume the motion to proceed to H.R. 3221, which the clerk will report by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A motion to proceed to the bill (H.R. 3221) moving the United States toward greater energy independence and security, developing

innovative new technologies, reducing carbon emissions, creating green jobs, protecting consumers, increasing clean renewable energy production, and modernizing our energy infrastructure, and to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax incentives for the production of renewable energy and energy conservation.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that after my remarks, the senior Senator from Rhode Island, Mr. REED, be allowed to speak.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, housing is on the minds of so many Ohioans these days, as it is on people's minds across the country. My State has the unfortunate distinction of leading the Nation in the percentage of property in foreclosure.

Every day, 200 Ohio families lose their homes—200 families every single day. The strides we have made as a Nation in increasing home ownership in the last few years will be reversed if we don't act.

The foreclosure crisis is having a tremendous impact on all of Ohio. No city, no region has been spared. The past few years have seen an explosion of predatory lending. The State of Ohio was slow to respond, while the Federal Government—regulators and Congress and the President—have been even slower to respond. Today, we pay the price.

As late as this summer, President Bush and Secretary Paulson—the Bush administration—indicated the problem was largely contained and it would

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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